

would have to provide to any requester under the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA.

Today, I am releasing my hold on Mr. Steve Johnson to acknowledge that EPA has made a good faith effort to provide documents on the Portland sewer situation since I placed a hold on his nomination. Although I am lifting my hold on Mr. Johnson, I remain troubled by EPA's policy for withholding documents from Members of the Senate and the Environment and Public Works Committee, in particular. I believe the EPA position on this critical issue is contrary to the law and the controlling court decisions. I have also voiced my concern that EPA policy would mean the end of Congressional oversight. I believe that Senators should not be forced to place holds on nominees in order to obtain documents they need to conduct their oversight duties as members of the committee with primary responsibility for oversight of EPA.

I will lift my hold on Mr. Johnson's nomination today to acknowledge recent EPA efforts to respond to my requests. I will also be monitoring EPA cooperation in responding to my requests for information in the future. And if EPA again tries to stonewall as it did to my requests for information on the Portland sewers, I will put a hold on other EPA nominations if that is what it takes to get the agency's attention and cooperation.

#### OFFICER ISAAC ANTHONY ESPINOZA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have just returned from San Francisco, a city whose heart has been broken by the tragic shooting death of a brave young police officer. On April 10, Isaac Espinoza was killed in the line of duty at the age of 29.

Officer Espinoza died doing the duty he loved: protecting the community from gang violence. He had volunteered to work as a plain clothes officer in the gang suppression unit of Bayview Police Station, where he served with distinction for 7 of his 8 years on the San Francisco police force.

Officer Espinoza was well known and liked in the Bayview neighborhood. Residents trusted him, and they appreciated his efforts to defuse violence and get guns off the streets. His outstanding work was recognized by the Police Department, which honored him with a Silver Medal of Valor and a Purple Heart as well as a Police Commission commendation.

Isaac Espinoza was also a loving husband, father, and son. My heart goes out to his wife, daughter, and family. I want them to know that the entire community shares their grief. All San Francisco feels the loss of Isaac's death, just as we all appreciate the gift of his life and work.

A gallant police officer is gone, but he will not be forgotten. We can and must carry on his work by giving com-

munity police officers and other first responders the resources they need to bring peace and safety to our Nation's streets and neighborhoods.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, due to a previous obligation, I was unable to vote on the conference report to H.R. 3108, the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004. If I had been present, I would have voted in support of the conference report. I appreciate the work done on this conference report by my colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, GREGG, MCCONNELL, BAUCUS, and KENNEDY. As others have mentioned before, this legislation is very important to many businesses and their employees suffering from the recent economic downturn and in need of pension relief that the act will provide.

While the act will help millions of employees who are covered under this measure, I am concerned that approximately 9.7 million Americans who belong to multi-employer pension plans, many of them in the construction industry, who are facing the same problems as employees covered by other pension plans, will not be receiving this relief. In January, when the Senate overwhelmingly passed H.R. 3108, we agreed that our pension laws should affect not just single-employer plans but also multi-employer plans. We thought including multi-employers was fair and just. Unfortunately, in conference, there were some that agreed with the Bush administration that multi-employer plans should only receive partial relief. Some would say that the relief will be four percent, others will say it is even less than that. All I know is that millions of hard-working Americans, who report to work just as any other employee, will not receive this relief.

However, with the April 15 deadline where many employers were facing an inflated contribution to their pension plans and the administration's threat of a veto if the final bill included multi-employer relief, I could not penalize approximately 35 million Americans who are covered by single-employer defined benefit plans. The low 30-year Treasury bond interest rates and the unpredictable stock market have adversely affected many companies that contribute to these defined benefit plans. Again, while I believe these conditions affected not just single-employer plans, but also multi-employer plans, I could not jeopardize the 35 million Americans who could have lost their pensions if this important legislation were not enacted into law.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING ERIN SMALLEY: A REMARKABLE YOUNG WRITER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a fine young

Iowan, Erin Smalley of Johnston. Erin is a seventh-grade student at Johnston Middle School. Erin wrote the following essay for a school-wide contest for American Education Week on the topic "Great public schools for every child—America's promise." Erin's eloquent and inspiring words remind us of the importance of education in America. I would like to take a moment to share with you what Erin Smalley wrote in her essay, *A Passion for Education*.

William Butler Yeats, an Irish poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923, once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." He made an excellent point, but reading through is quote just once will not make the meaning sink in. I am going to break it down to make it more easily understood.

The first part of Yeats' quote states, "Education is not the filling of a pail." I believe it means this: Education is not just putting information and knowledge into someone's mind. You can't dump fact, after fact, after fact onto someone because it will just go in one ear and out the other. Putting a lot of information into someone's head is just like filling a pail with a lot of water. It will probably just sit there, but it won't sink in. That is why education means something more.

The rest of the quote says: "... but the lighting of a fire." I believe this means that education is all about enlightening students and making them wonder. To light their fire is to make them want to learn more, to build a passion for what they are being taught. When they have an interest, then they will go for it. When kids are given an education, and they discover a passion for something important to them, then they will go higher and higher and never give up, until they reach their dreams. When the light goes on, that's when they start to discover and learn. That's when education is most important, because then it will hopefully become a turning point in their life.

Everyone should get to go to a free school to learn freely and learn new things. I want every kid to be able to have a passion for something, and be able to have the chance to go for their dreams. I want every kid to get the chance, because it's not fair if only some do. I hope that having an education will light all of the flames, and not just fill up the pails. •

#### CENTRAL COLLEGE SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, last fall, Central College kicked off a year of festivities to celebrate its sesquicentennial. Founded in 1853 by a determined group of immigrants from the Netherlands, Central College has grown in size and stature during the last century and a half, but remains grounded in the tradition and faith of its founders. This weekend, the celebration continues with the Happy Birthday Dear Central Gala.

Currently affiliated with the Reformed Church in America, the college was originally created through the efforts of the Baptists of Iowa. The Iowa Baptist Society worked to establish an "institution of liberal and sacred learning" in the early days of our State. An enterprising, open-minded Pella resident, Dominie Scholte, believed in the